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Committee for Programme and Coordination
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Agenda item 8
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-sixth session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Valery **Zhdanovich** (Belarus)

Addendum

Programme questions. Evaluation (item 3 (d))

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on an in-depth evaluation of political affairs

1. At its 2nd meeting, on 14 August 2006, the Committee considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on an in-depth evaluation of political affairs (E/AC.51/2006/4) and the comments of the Secretary-General thereon (E/AC.51/2006/4/Add.1).

2. The representative of OIOS introduced the report and responded to the questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

3. Appreciation was expressed for the informative and comprehensive nature of the report and for the recommendations made. Concern was expressed regarding some of the key findings, in particular: the low capacity of the regional divisions relative to their broad and important mandates; the lack of conceptual clarity in operational work in conflict prevention, peacemaking and post-conflict peacebuilding; the mixed capability of the regional divisions to produce informational and analytical products of consistently high quality; and the apparent low priority given to gender mainstreaming issues in the Department of Political Affairs.

4. With regard to the finding that significant strengthening and retooling of the regional divisions was needed, it was noted that OIOS fell short of making concrete

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recommendations on how the regional divisions could be strengthened and retooled. The recommendation for the regional divisions to undergo an intensive change-management process to review and make concrete strengthening proposals would cause further delay in addressing the issue. It was furthermore suggested that OIOS should take into consideration the request for it to make more concrete proposals in its reports.

5. OIOS provided clarification on a number of issues, including: how some of the more ambitious recommendations requiring broad consultation with the United Nations and other actors could be implemented; the nature of the problematic relationship between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Political Affairs; the implications for the quality of Security Council reports of the mixed quality of the regional divisions' analytical outputs; the division of labour between the recently established Peacebuilding Support Office and the regional divisions; whether Member States were consulted in the assessment of the quality of the work of regional divisions; the lack of geographical diversity in the choice of external analytical and information support utilized by the Department of Political Affairs; and the mandate for OIOS to produce the subject report.

Conclusions and recommendations

6. **The Committee welcomed the findings of the in-depth evaluation of the Department of Political Affairs and encouraged OIOS to continue its evaluation of the remaining subprogrammes of the Department to be submitted at its next session, and endorsed the 10 recommendations contained in paragraphs 74 to 83 of the report.**

7. **While recognizing the use made by the Department of Political Affairs of academic and non-governmental organizations for information-gathering and analytical tasks, the Committee stressed that it was important for the Department to retain sufficient analytical capability to ensure that issues continue to be viewed from a multilateral perspective.**